



Barley Bulletin



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IBMS Organizational Meeting Held Sept. 8

The first organizational meeting for the Institute of Barley and Malt Sciences (IBMS) was held on September 8 at the Great Northern Restaurant and Brewery in Fargo. Representatives from the North Dakota Barley Council, malting and brewing companies and North Dakota State University discussed the concept, vision and operation of the IBMS.

The overall concept of the IBMS is to 1) provide a forum for discussion and prioritization of goals for the production, processing and marketing of malting barley; 2) coordinate expertise from different disciplines on production and technical issues related to malt barley to effectively serve the needs of stakeholders; and 3) serve as a national center to provide education, outreach and research for U.S. barley producers as well as domestic and international consumers of U. S. malting barley.

A steering committee has been formed to develop the general structure of the IBMS. The North Dakota Barley Council is excited to be part of this much-needed education and research effort. ■

Japanese Feed Barley Trade Team Visits N.D.

On August 1, the North Dakota Barley Council hosted a trade team of feed barley procurement professionals

from Japan. The Council prepared an extensive program for this trade team, featuring several topics and speakers,

including: 1) development of new barley varieties for feed utilization, by Dr. Richard Horsley, NDSU barley breeder; 2) applications of North Dakota barley in animal nutrition, presented by Dr. Vern Anderson, animal scientist in ruminant nutrition from the NDSU Research Extension Center at Carrington; and 3) an industry view of the supply, demand and market outlook for feed barley, presented by Tim Potter from Cenex Harvest States, Minneapolis

Following the morning seminar, the trade team visited the Jim Broten farm near Dazey, N.D., to ride the combine and observe barley harvesting.

The U.S. Grains Council (USGC) office in Tokyo, under the direction of Cary Sifferath, coordinated the visit of this feed barley trade team to North Dakota. Educating trade teams of this nature is critical to developing long-term relationships with overseas customers. Japan is the number-one customer for U. S. feed barley, and the North Dakota Barley Council works closely with USGC to help meet the needs of this very important customer.

Below: Members of the Japanese feed barley team climbed aboard a Cat during their stop at the Jim Broten farm near Dazey. Left to right are: Michael Graviet, interpreter for the team; Akihiro Sonoda, Kyodo Shiryō Company; Kazuo Iba, Nichiwa Sangyo Company; Mitsuru Kato, general manager of the All Japan Barley Processors Association; Osamu "Sam" Yako, deputy manager, Grain Section, Livestock Production Dept., National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations in Japan; and Jim Broten, North Dakota Barley Council.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Louis Arnold

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Executive Director

The NDBC and the MBR&PC are organizations of North Dakota and Minnesota barley growers.

Funded by producer checkoff programs, the two councils work to develop a strong barley industry through marketing, research and educational programs.

As of this writing, small grain harvest is wrapping up in many areas of the state, and I'm sure all of us are busy making the transition to prepare harvesting row crops.

The summer months pass far too quickly, and the Barley Council has been quite busy with a number of projects.

• Summer County Representatives Meeting

The summer meeting for the county representatives was held on July 12 in Williston. Following a brief meeting, the county reps toured the USDA-ARS station in Sidney, Mont. Barley variety development trials were viewed at the Sidney station, as well as other barley field research experiments. Participants also toured the Busch Ag Resources malt barley receiving facility at Sidney.

Our tour was held in conjunction with the summer tour of the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA). This provided a unique opportunity for our county representatives to interact with professionals from the malting and brewing industry. Keeping industry informed about the challenges of production agriculture is very important for our growers.

• **Crop Insurance** – Jim Broten, Steve Edwardson and I attended a meeting in Billings, Mont., on June 3 regarding the current status and future direction of crop insurance for malting barley. Growers and industry representatives from North Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Washington outlined current constraints in Federal Crop Insurance programs for barley. The insurance needs of North Dakota barley producers are different from those of the Pacific



Louis Arnold

Northwest. We are evaluating the potential to develop a new insurance product for malting barley that is more aligned with the actual perils faced by producers.

• **Crop Quality** – At this writing, the quality of 2005 barley crop is reported to be quite variable. DON levels are varying considerably, from next to nothing in northwest North Dakota and eastern Montana to 8 ppm (or more) in areas of eastern North Dakota. The Council continues to support research on variety development and disease management in an effort to help growers produce a high-quality crop.

• **Staff** – Weston Dvorak resigned his position as barley utilization development specialist for the Council, effective July 1. Weston provided considerable expertise in assisting livestock producers to consider the benefits of including barley in livestock rations. As a result, many producers have once again included barley in their operations. The Council recognizes the importance of the livestock industry as a market for feed barley, and we are exploring options for continuing to provide educational services to livestock producers.

Weston is pursuing his interests in livestock production at his home ranch in the Dickinson area. We thank Weston for his services to the North Dakota Barley Council and the livestock industry of North Dakota. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

• **Acreage** — The Council is concerned about the decline in barley acres in North Dakota. Improving crop insurance, managing crop quality and developing market outlets are ongoing efforts to assist in keeping barley a viable rotational crop for our state. The Council welcomes your ideas on what we can do to enhance barley utilization. ■

~ Upcoming Events ~

Oct. 30 & 31 — Future of Farm Policy, Fargodome, Fargo

Oct. 31 - Nov. 3 — Barley & Malt Buyers' Forum,
Portland, Ore.

Nov. 9 — NDAA Fall Pesticide Registration Mtg., Bismarck

Nov. 5-11 — SBS Barley Mission to Japan (in cooperation
with USGC)

Nov. 17 — Northern Crops Council, Watertown, S.D.

Nov. 15 & 16 — USDA-RMA Northern Regional
Successful Strategies Conference, Billings, Mont.

Dec. 7 & 8 — Prairie Grains Conference, Alerus Center,
Grand Forks

Dec. 11-13 — Fusarium Head Blight Forum, Milwaukee,
Wisc.

Dec. 13-18 — WTO Ministerial, Hong Kong

Jan. 9 & 10 — North Dakota Grain Growers Association,
Bismarck Civic Center

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT By Steve Edwardson

Summer has passed far too quickly. As we wrap up the harvest for small grains and begin the harvest for row crops, many growers are already evaluating their cropping plans for 2006. There are a number of issues impacting barley production, all of which are being addressed by your Council.

• **Farm Policy** — Discussions and listening sessions have just begun on the 2007 farm program. Richard Groven and I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend a seminar on the 2007 farm bill. There were a number of participants from Europe and Canada, and it is clear that the current farm program in the U.S.



Steve Edwardson

is under significant scrutiny from foreign countries as well as the World Trade Organization. It is absolutely critical for growers to look at each crop on their farm in relation to farm program development and make certain their voices are heard so that the international marketplace does not simply develop farm policy for us. Your Council is carefully monitoring farm policy and participating in the discussions.

• **Energy & Transportation** — Increased energy costs are significantly impacting the bottom line on all farming operations. Rail rates, fuel costs and fertilizer prices have all increased substantially. The North Dakota Barley Council signed on to a letter (with other commodity organizations) that was sent to Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) to

address rail car availability and rail rate charges. Keeping a lid on energy costs is an issue that all commodity organizations will be addressing. This will be an ongoing effort.

• **Trade** — Of primary importance is developing the relationships necessary to facilitate trade. As reported on page 1, the North Dakota Barley Council hosted a trade team from Japan in August 2005. The trade team was focused on securing feed barley from North Dakota. The Council provided a seminar to the trade team on the utilization of barley in livestock rations, and we also covered barley variety development. Following the seminar, participants witnessed barley harvest at the Jim Broten farm and toured barley fields. The international marketplace is becoming increasingly interested in having direct contact with growers in order to improve understanding of farm production practices.

• **Research** — In mid-July, the North American Barley Researchers Workshop was held in Red Deer, Alberta. This event provided a comprehensive update on variety development and production practices specifically related to barley. There is increasing interest in barley utilization in human food applications. Traceability and identity preservation are becoming much larger issues in the management of the supply chain from field to table. Information gained from this conference will be utilized in developing targeted education efforts to enhance crop management for barley.

• *I wish everyone a very safe and productive fall harvest season.* ■

In The International Trade Arena

Council Directors At Seattle U.S. Grains Council Meeting

The U. S. Grains Council Board of Delegates Meeting was held in Seattle July 24 and 25. Wayne Narum, Richard Groven, Jim Broten, Charles Ottem and Steve Edwardson attended the meeting.

The U.S. Grains Council provides assistance with international market development for corn, barley and sorghum. Barley utilization in foreign countries is expanding, especially since the growing livestock industry in China is going to require increasing amounts of feed products. This meeting helped provide a definitive overview of global market conditions.

Canada Expecting Plentiful Crop of Malt Barley in 2005

Malt barley production on the Canadian prairies is expected to be in the neighborhood of 11.5 million metric tons, which is about an average crop.

In general, the six-row barley is in very good condition, although staining has occurred in some areas. Disease pressure has been minimal, and protein content is generally acceptable. This allows buyers to be very selective in their early purchases of malt barley.

Taiwan Buying U.S. Barley

Taiwanese barley buyers bought about 30,000 metric tons of U.S. barley for October 16-30 shipment. "After several years of promoting the quality and value of U.S. barley in Taiwan, we are delighted to see this purchase," said Mike Callahan, USGC senior director of international operations – Asia. "Hopefully this sale will signal the onset of regular purchases of U.S. barley by the feed, food and beverage processing sectors in Taiwan." The last time Taiwan bought U.S. barley was during market year 2000/01, when it took 33,000 tons. The Taiwanese currently import about 100,000 tons of barley annually.

Livestock News

Dvorak Departs from NDBC

As noted in Louis Arnold's column, Weston Dvorak, barley utilization development specialist for the North Dakota Barley Council, has resigned his position. Weston will be pursuing his interest in livestock production at his home ranch in the Dickinson area. The North Dakota livestock industry has significant potential, and Weston's expertise made a solid contribution to enhancing this industry. The Council wishes him all the best as he pursues his interests.

Livestock Publications

The North Dakota Barley Council has some excellent publications to assist livestock producers in utilizing barley in their rations. These publications specifically address feeding barley to beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. If you would like to receive any of these publications, please contact the Council's Fargo office. ■

Barley Bits

NEWS ON BARLEY PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETS & TRADE

Barley Disease Handbook — The department of plant pathology at North Dakota State University has developed a “Barley Disease Handbook” to assist growers, crop consultants and other agricultural professionals in identifying barley diseases. This guide is very complete, with high-quality color photographs of barley diseases. Guidelines for diagnosing barley diseases are also provided. The “Barley Disease Handbook” is available from the NDSU Extension Service and the North Dakota Barley Council.

Barley Production Guide Updated — Another popular publication is the “Barley Production Guide”. This pocket-sized guide was recently updated by the NDSU Extension Service, and provides information on planting, fertilization, weed control, harvest, storage and other factors important in optimizing barley production. The guide is available from the both the NDSU Extension Service and the North Dakota Barley Council.

New Technology to Rate Malting Barley — The Canadian Grain Commission has developed a new test to measure pre-germination in malting barley. The test assists maltsters in choosing the best grain.

The test also suggests under what conditions barley can be stored (length of time, temperature, etc.) before it loses germination energy.

Hull-Less Barley Developed at Virginia Tech — Virginia Tech has developed a hull-less barley for production in the eastern United States. It can be combined with corn to produce ethanol, and can also be utilized in malting applications for beer. In addition, the hull-less barley is being targeted to livestock applications to promote weight gain.

GIPSA Offers Official Protein Tests on Barley — The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will begin offering official barley protein measurements using an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) calibration on official near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments. The barley protein content testing service is available upon request, and was first offered on July 1, 2005.

This marks the first official test for barley protein content. Recently developed state-of-the-art ANN calibration development techniques allow for barley and wheat protein content to be determined with a greater degree of accuracy than was possible with more limited calibration approaches. GIPSA will begin using an ANN calibration for official wheat protein content measurement in May 2006.

According to GIPSA administrator Donna Reifschneider, the new official barley protein service will facilitate the marketing of barley by providing a fair, accurate and transparent third-party determination, backed by a national quality control process, and standardized instrumentation, reference samples, calibrations and procedures. ■

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